RACE AND INSANITY.*

BY JAS. G. KIERNAN, M.D., CHICAGO.,

LATE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, FORMERLY OF THE NEW YORK CITY ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK SOCIETY OF MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND OF THE CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE† influence of immigration in increasing insanity in the United States has hitherto been discussed from one, and it must be admitted, rather limited standpoint, during the past five years. In 1881,[1] basing my opinion on my New York experience, I urged governmental regulation of immigration. Dr. Pratt[2] also urged governmental restriction. He, however, did not take into account an element of greater importance than the mere importation of insane individuals. A non-English speaking foreigner seems less out of accord with his environment, and hence does not very soon reach an insane hospital. He often marries and rears a family. Even after he learns English his peculiarities are condoned on the ground of being a foreigner. The greatness of the dangers from this source cannot easily be demonstrated, since the reign of the "practical Philistines" in Anglo-Saxon psychiatry has prevented the proper study of insanity from a biological standpoint. But little is available for present purposes. Morandau de

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* A series of Studies in Ethnological Psychiatry.

† A number of errors have crept into the tables of the last article. Five per cent, should read sixteen (p. 236). The German female column in table XI. (climacteric insanity) should read 2 in place of 0. The German male column in table XI. (choreic insanity) should read 0 in place of 4. The negro and Bohemian figure in table XX. should be transposed. The male negro column in table XII. should read 5 in place of 2; the Holland 4 in place of 5; the American Anglo-Saxon 17, not 19. For table XVIII. should be substituted XVIII. in the present article. The Anglo-Saxon American figures in table XXVI. should read 8 in place of 9.

Monteyel[3] has called attention to certain biological facts which deserve attention in this particular, and which indicate one peculiar unnoticed danger from the imported insane. Paranoiacs are peculiarly liable to regard the United States as a fitting field for their projects, and hence their errabund tendencies direct them hither. That many of them never reach insane hospitals is obvious from the history of a Norwegian, elsewhere related,[4] who lived in the United States twenty years and procreated several children before his insanity was suspected; only an accidental rencontre with an irascible, abusive neighbor led to its discovery. The relative proportion of paranoiacs is therefore of interest. Only the German and Italian hospitals afford means of comparison.

TABLE XXIX.—PARANOIA.

Races.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
Teutonic.			
Anglo-Saxon, American,	15	11	26
" " English	6	2	8
" " Scotch	2		2
" " Canadian	1		1
Hollanders	2		2
German	14	11	25
" -American	4	2	6
Scandinavian-Danes	4	2	6
" Norwegians	5	3	8
" Swedes	1	3	4
Celtic.			
Irish	20	12	32
" -American	8	4	12
" -Canadian	1	1	2
Latin.			
French-American	1		1
Italian	2	1	3
SHEMITIC	3	2	5
Hebrew.			
NEGRO	3	2	5
Total	92	56	148

The paranoiacs in the German and Italian insane hospitals are about seven per cent. of the resident population; in the Cook County Insane Hospital they furnished fourteen per cent. of the resident German and Italian insane.

Nor does this fully indicate the real number of paranoiacs imported, for, from reasons already indicated, a larger number will escape insane hospital treatment in the United States. No Bohemians appear in the statistics, yet I know of several Bohemian paranoiacs who died after a very checkered career without entering an insane hospital. The same is true to a lesser extent of the Teutonic and Latin races. The United States is therefore constantly receiving elements of degeneracy. The paranoiac's child may be an epileptic, a periodical lunatic, a chronic hysterical lunatic, a paranoiac, imbecile, idiot, or congenital criminal. It becomes of interest therefore to ascertain what dangers there are of children being procreated by these lunatics. The only statistics available are those collected by myself, which tend to corroborate de Monteyel's researches, and are as follows:

TABLE XXX.

Civil Condition.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Married—childless	12	8	20
" children born dead	9	2	11
" majority died infants	18	11	29
" " survived infancy	4	5	9
Unmarried	19	11	30
Total	62	37	99

TABLE XXXI.

Children in Family.	No. of families.	Survived infancy.	Died in infancy.
5 children in family	3	7	8
6 " " "	2	5	7
8 " " "	7	19	37
9 " " "	8	20	50
10 " " "	11	31	79
11 " " "	2	5	17
12 " " "	1	3	9
13 " " "	1	2	11
16 " " "	1	3	13
17 " " "	1	4	13
22 " " "	1	3	19
Total	38	102	263

TABLE XVIII.—SENILE INSANITY.

Race.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ARYAN.			
Teutonic.			
Anglo-Saxon, American	5	6	11
" " English	1	0	1
German	4	5	9
Scandinavian-Swede	0	1	1
Celtic.			
Irish	9	11	20
Sclavonic.			
Bohemian	0	1	1
Latin.			
French-Canadian	2	2	4
SHEMITIC.			
Hebrew	1	1	2
Total	22	27	49

It is obvious that the dangers of degeneracy are serious and need national attention.* The fact that the mismanagement of the Cook County Insane Hospital, elsewhere described,[5] resulted in an enormous death-rate, which, of course, affected most largely the chronic insane, shows that, seriously significant as these statistics are, they rather under- than over-rate the danger. It has been stated that the influence of heredity is not as potent as is generally believed, for otherwise the world would be depopulated. While this was stated for mercenary reasons, it is true that the conservative tendencies of heredity would soon overcome the degenerative tendencies were it not true also, as has been shown by Bannister,[6] Manning,[7] and myself,[8] that there is a very readily understood tendency on the part of the neuropathic to seek each other in marriage.

(*To be continued.*)

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

[1] *Chicago Medical Review*, vol. iv.
[2] *Journal of American Medical Association*, vol. ii.
[3] *L'Encéphale*, 1883; JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE, 1883.
[4] *Neurological Review*, vol. i, No. 1.
[5] *Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner*, vol. lii., No. 4.
[6] JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE, 1882.
[7] *Australasian Medical Gazette*, Aug., 1885.
[8] *Detroit Lancet*, vol. viii.

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* The senile lunatics appear to be imported in great numbers, judging by the above table.